

Notes by DCI  
5/15/74



## The President's Daily Brief

May 15, 1974

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exemption category 5B(1), (2), (3)  
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

## THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

May 15, 1974

### PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The new fedayeen terrorist action in Israel this morning will increase public pressure on Israeli leaders to avoid any concessions to Syria that might make Israeli settlements in the Golan Heights more vulnerable to terrorist attack. (Page 1)

Lebanese President Frangie has persuaded the Syrians to remove surface-to-air missile batteries from Lebanese territory near Mount Hermon, according to a source of the US embassy in Beirut. Military action of the Golan front was light yesterday. (Page 2)

The North Vietnamese have withdrawn their first major combat unit from Laos since the start of the 60-day countdown for foreign troop departures; the countdown began on April 5 with the formation of the coalition government. (Page 3)

A spokesman for the Portuguese military junta yesterday described as "constructive" an offer to negotiate by the insurgent movement in Portuguese Guinea. He said the rebel proposal would be considered by the new provisional government later this week. (Page 4)

Notes appear on Page 5 on the Libyan Prime Minister's visit to Moscow, the continuing standdown in Soviet arms deliveries to Egypt, [ ] Soviet [ ] and the wholesale resignations of [ ] Argentine police officers.

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## ISRAEL

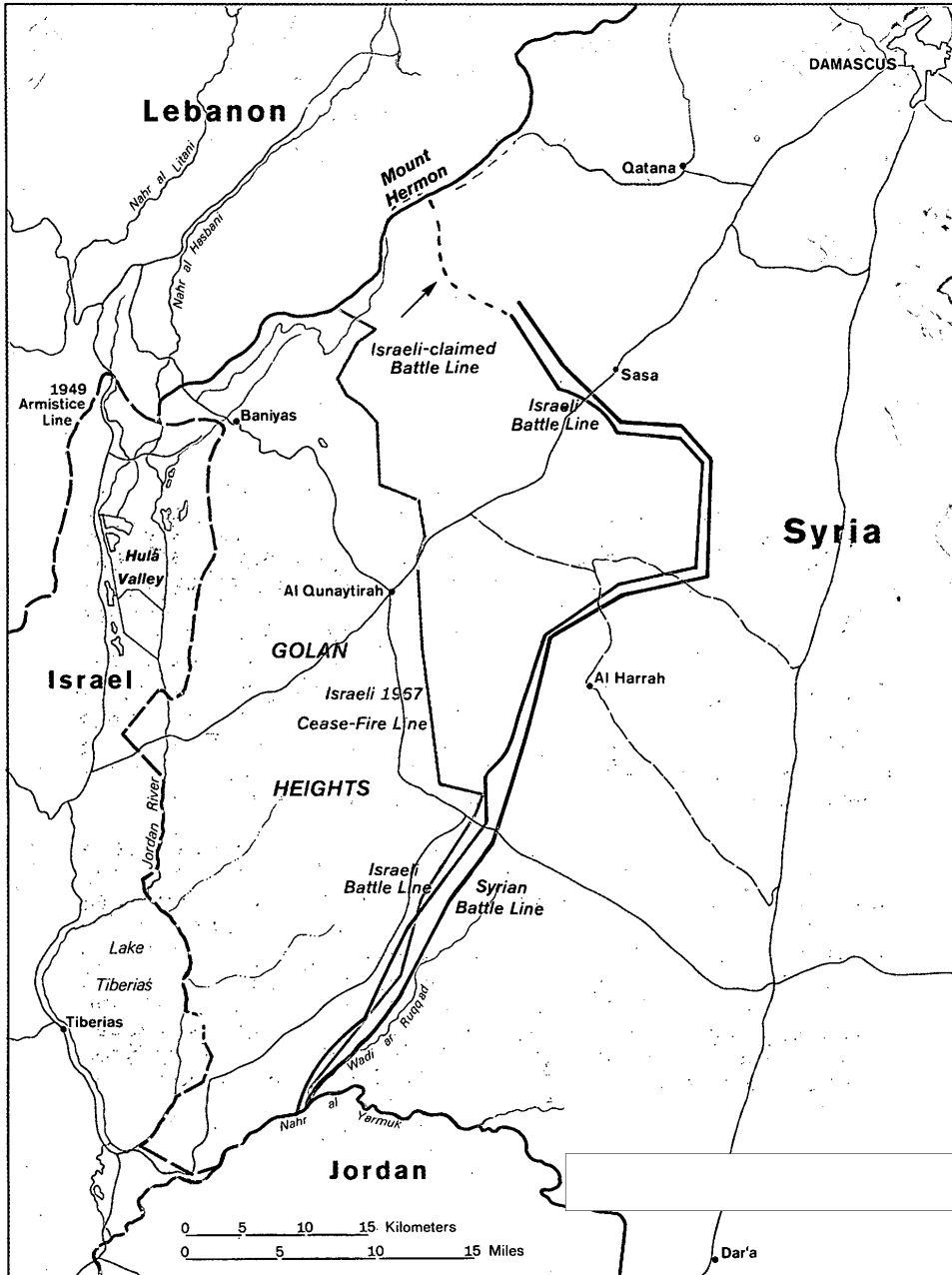
The new fedayeen terrorist action in Israel this morning is sure to increase public pressure on the Israeli government to avoid concessions to the Syrians that might make Israeli settlers on the Golan Heights more vulnerable to terrorist attack.

Arab guerrillas took a large number of Israeli secondary students hostage early today at a school in Mashov Maalot, a small farming cooperative in northern Israel. The terrorists, who have been surrounded by Israeli security forces, have threatened to kill their hostages unless the Israeli government releases some 20 to 30 imprisoned fedayeen by 6:00 p.m. Israeli time.

Earlier, the group is reported to have ambushed a vehicle carrying some Israeli Arabs, killing one person and wounding others. The terrorists presumably had entered Israel from southern Lebanon. Retaliatory Israeli action against fedayeen encampments in southern Lebanon is likely.

In the wake of this incident, Israeli security forces are sure to crack down harder on Arabs living in Israel and on the West Bank.

The Syrian Front



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## SYRIA-ISRAEL

Lebanese President Frangie has persuaded President Asad to remove Syrian surface-to-air missile batteries from Lebanese territory near Mount Hermon, according to a source of the US embassy in Beirut. The source speculated that Asad had agreed because he believes a disengagement agreement will be reached and because the missiles provided only minimal protection against Israeli aircraft. He added that Israeli air strikes against these batteries may have also been a factor in the Syrian withdrawal.

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[REDACTED]

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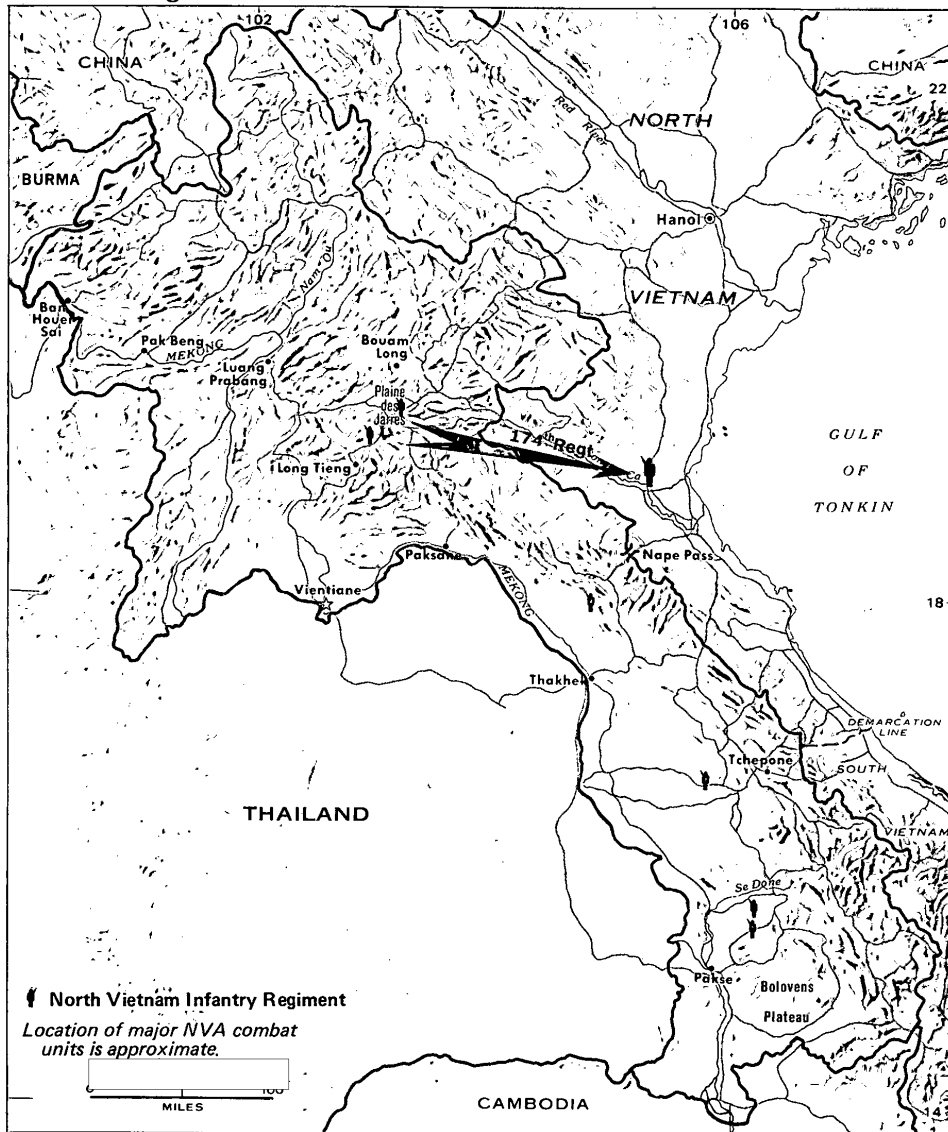
Military action on the Golan front was light yesterday. Artillery fire was reported east of Al Qunaytirah and on Mount Hermon. [REDACTED]

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# NVA 174<sup>th</sup> Regiment Leaves Laos



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## LAOS

Hanoi has withdrawn its first major combat unit from Laos since the start of the 60-day countdown for foreign troop departures, which began on April 5 with the formation of the coalition government.

Communications intelligence indicates that the North Vietnamese 174th Infantry Regiment withdrew from northern Laos to North Vietnam during mid-April and early May. The regimental headquarters was firmly located on May 8 in Nghe An Province in close proximity to its parent division and the division's other two infantry regiments. These latter units withdrew from northern Laos in mid-December 1973.

Two North Vietnamese independent infantry regiments are still in control of the strategic Plaine des Jarres in north Laos. Major elements of four other front-line North Vietnamese combat regiments are deployed in central and southern Laos. Sizable numbers of North Vietnamese logistic and engineer forces are located along the Lao infiltration corridor.

## PORTUGUESE AFRICA

A spokesman for the Portuguese military junta yesterday described as "constructive" an offer for negotiations announced Monday by the Portuguese Guinea insurgent movement. He said that the rebel proposal would be considered by the new provisional government later this week. The rebel offer included the condition that Lisbon recognize the right of independence for the "State of Guinea-Bissau" as well as for the peoples of Angola and Mozambique.

The new provisional government will find it difficult to accept all the conditions proposed by the rebels. It probably will make its response applicable only to Portuguese Guinea. The insurgent organizations in Angola and Mozambique do not have the political position of the insurgents in Portuguese Guinea, and the insurgents in Angola do not have the military strength of their counterparts in Mozambique and Portuguese Guinea.

## NOTES

Libya-USSR: Libyan Prime Minister Jallud was given a warm reception on his arrival in Moscow yesterday; both sides are seeking to give the impression of a new relationship. Jallud probably will be seeking more Soviet arms, as well as trade and economic development assistance. The Libyan Prime Minister will be banking for leverage on the difficulties that Tripoli and Moscow share in their worsening relations with Egypt, and their opposition to the dominant role of the US in the Middle East negotiations. The Egyptians are worried that a major arms pact between the two will tend to isolate Egypt politically and might result in a Soviet military presence in Libya.

USSR-Egypt: It is now more than four weeks since the USSR's last seaborne arms delivery to Egypt. Little, if any, military equipment has gone in by air. Despite the cutoff, the Egyptians probably have enough spare parts to maintain their Soviet equipment for several months. As for economic aid, the Soviets seem to be honoring existing commitments.

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Argentina: Wholesale resignations from the top ranks of the federal police will hamper attempts by the Peron government to counter terrorism. Seven police commissioners have quit, and 21 subordinate officers are planning to do so in protest against controversial appointments to the leadership of the 18,000-man force. Peron recently named two of his old-line rightist supporters as chief and deputy chief of the force. One is an expert on terrorism and appears to be reasonably well qualified for the job. The other is known mainly for his role as captain of the police morality squad during the military government. He reportedly was sacked after his men arrested several government officials.

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